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THURSDAY EDITION,
 AUGUST 13, 2020

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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 274

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Public Hearing on proposed City budget 2020-2021
 Aug. 25
 5:30 p.m.
 Council Chambers

Public Hearing on proposed County budget 2020-2021
 Aug. 24
 3:30 p.m.
 Courthouse

Main Street Food Drive
 Runs through
 Aug. 15

BSISD returns to class on Aug. 19

Forsan and Coahoma return to class on Aug. 13

Toasty Tuesday every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma Lion's Club Trade Day & City Wide Garage Sale
 Sept. 26
 8 - 5 p.m.

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Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



BSISD Food Services serves more than 200,000 meals over break

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

August has arrived, summer is winding down and families are gearing up for a new school semester. The Big Spring ISD food services department is switching gears as they wrap up the Summer Meal Program and start preparing for kids to flow through the cafeterias again. As part of this effort, through Covid-19 funding from the state, between May 26 and July 30 Big Spring ISD served 85,467 meals to youth in the community. Since school let out in March, the program has served a total of 201,586 meals.

"With so many parents furloughed or on unemployment, having meals available to help support the community through these times hopefully took a little stress off of them as far as having the means to offer meals for their children," Kimberly Young, Food Services Director, said.

In an effort to ensure the youth in the community didn't go hungry while out of school, the BSISD and Aramark Food Services offered free breakfast and lunch through the delivery of pick up sites throughout the city. The food sites were located along the BSISD bus routes and were avail

See **MEALS**, Page 3



HERALD file photo

Since students were released in March, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Big Spring ISD food service workers have worked hard to ensure students across Howard County were fed while at home.

Taking a look at the City Landfill and the impact on the beautification of Big Spring

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

The City Landfill has been a topic of discussion the past couple of years, due to the decreasing space in the remaining cells. Discussion and construction has been taking place on a new landfill, which is set to be completed in early 2021 with anticipation of an opening date set for Summer 2021.

"We have currently completed phase

1 of three on the new landfill," Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, said.

While the discussions have brought up that space is limited, there are no restrictions on how many times a household may utilize the landfill. According to Bowles, Howard County residents are encouraged to use the landfill as much as needed.

"The landfill is a designated place to get rid of waste in the City of Big Spring," Boiles said. "Utilizing the landfill will

reduce illegal dumping and reduce having waste/trash polluting our city, making the city a cleaner place to live."

The City Landfill is located on the eastern edge of Big Spring off of FM 700, at 4100 E FM 700, where the primary entrance is located. The current landfill has been in operation since 1977 when it was permitted as a Type I municipal solid waste landfill and covers 219 acres.

According to Bowles, the fee to use the City Landfill is \$46 per ton for residential customers. Commercial usage will have an additional \$25 gate fee added.



Tuesday Rotary welcomes District Governor



Courtesy photos/Bruce Schooler

Fr. Christian Rabone and Laurie Light were presented with their first Paul Harris Award. District 5730 Governor Bonnie B. Pendleton, Ph.D. visited the Tuesday Rotary Club last week and provided an overview of the year to come.

Herald Staff Report

Last week, Big Spring Rotary extended a warm Big Spring welcome to the new District 5730 Governor, Bonnie B Pendleton, Ph.D. and her husband Michael Pendleton, Ph.D. The couple visited the Big Spring Rotary Club at the Hotel Settles on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, and continued the tradition of the incoming District Governor's.

Dr. Pendleton's presentation focused on providing updates to the members of the Big Spring Tuesday Rotary Club on the activities and events taking place in the district and around the world.

After the presentation concluded, Dr. Pendleton had the honor of awarding two new Paul Harris awards to club

members. She presented Fr. Christian Rabone and Laurie Light with their first Paul Harris Award. In addition, Tommy Churchwell and Bob Lewis (Tumbleweed Smith) were presented with their Paul Harris plus six award.

Big Spring Rotary is always accepting new members for those looking to get involved in the community. For more information about the Big Spring Rotary Club contact a member or attend a meeting at Noon on Tuesdays. The meetings will return to Howard College Fireplace Room on Aug. 18. Prospective members are welcome to attend a meeting and enjoy lunch on the club.

As the District Governor's visit wrapped up a new spark was lit as the Big Spring Rotary Club heads into a new year with excitement.

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Obituaries

Wanda Ann Tubbs

Wanda Ann Evans born Feb. 20,1954, to Patsy McNew and James Evans in Richmond, CA and passed away Aug. 6 2020.

Soon after my grandma and mom relocated to Big Spring, Texas. On Feb. 10,1980, she married the love of her life Jim Tubbs in Big Spring. In her early days she had her own beauty salon and cut hair for years. During that time, she made many friends. She had three children with our dad, Stephanie, James and Kimberly. She has two sisters Beverly Smithie and Debra Myrick and one brother William McNew. She has numerous nieces and nephews that she loved dearly.

Even though my mom was a very blunt spoken woman and never held back, she always loved with all her heart. No matter if she were mad at you or disappointed in you, she would give you the shirt off her back even if it were her last one, she owned. It wasn't until her early 60's that she first got sick and ended up going into a nursing home. Even when she had so much pain and trouble breathing, she would still make sure her kids and husband were still hap-

py and healthy from afar.

She has two children James Tubbs and Kimberly Tubbs and three grandchildren Memzy Tubbs, Mason Tubbs and Brianna Dolloff. She loved her grandchildren very much and would have little gifts for each of them at every visit to the nursing home. Even though I only had 15 minutes with her the last time I got to be with her I know she knew it was me. Her eyes lit up with joy and happiness again and I will take that with me every day. My momma was my rock and I am completely lost without her, but I know she will be shining down on all of us every day. Momma please give all our peeps a huge hug and kiss for us and tell them it is party time for ya'll! We love ya'll to the moon and back.

She is preceded in death by both parents Patsy McNew and William Mcnew, her husband Jim Tubbs and her daughter Stephanie Merryfield.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Salvation Army Chapel.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid Obituary

Jay "Nopie" Briscoe

Jay "Nopie" Briscoe, 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020.

Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday Aug. 14, 2020, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Pastor Eddie Prince officiating.

Jay was born Nov. 24, 1939, in Rock Island, Texas. He married Anna "Nanny" Wasson March 1, 1959, in Toyah, Texas. They moved to Big Spring in 1983 from Gonzales, Texas. He served in the U. S. Army, including one tour in Korea,

two tours in Viet Nam. He retired from the army as a Staff Sergeant in 1968. After retiring from the Army, he drove a bus for Continental Trailways. Famous passengers included Dolly Parton and The Harlem Globe Trotters. He was a Golden Glove Boxer and was a member of Grace Fellow-

ship. He was an avid coffee drinker at Rip Griffin's Truck Stop, Whataburger, and McDonalds.

Jay is survived by his wife: Anna "Nanny" Briscoe of Big Spring; four daughters: Paty Bonnet and her husband Bruce of Georgetown, Tina Masek and her husband Chris of Flatonia, Pamela Briscoe of Big Spring, and Brandi Sanchez and her husband Brandon of Sweetwater, TN; one son: Jeff Briscoe and his wife Michaele of Longview; grandchildren: Cody, Audrea, Casey, Brittani, Kelsea, Jaurdin, Nathan, Jaden, and Jalei; and great grandchildren: Gavin, Raegan, Isabelle, Sylus, and Tristan.

Jay was preceded in death by Nora Briscoe (birth mom), Joe Briscoe (Dad), Vera Flowers (Mom); sisters: Vera Gent, Ramona Williams, Dorris Hooper, and Joann Briscoe; and brothers: Sam Briscoe and Gail Briscoe.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid Obituary

Rebecca Arriola

Rebecca Arriola, 71, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MARIO ILDEFONSO SALAZAR**, 30, of 1108 S Austin Street, was arrested on charges of criminal trespass - property/building/aircraft/vehicle, theft property (\$100 to \$750) all other, fail to identify giving false/fictitious information, and warrant - other agency.
- **HARLEE DARLENE SANDRIDGE**, 20, of 511 S Goliad Street, was arrested on warrant - other agency.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Settles Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of S Birdwell Lane.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 100 block of E 20th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF BUILDING** was reported in the 200 block of

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of 3rd and Galveston.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1200 block of W FM 700.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of S Monticello Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 200 block of W FM 700.

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of 3rd and Galveston.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1200 block of W FM 700.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of S Monticello Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 200 block of W FM 700.

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

The Commissioners' Court of Howard County, Tx will hold a public hearing to receive comments or questions of the public regarding its pending budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Hearing will be held August 24, 2020 during the Commissioners' Court meeting scheduled for 3:30 pm in the Courtroom located on the third floor of the Courthouse.

Signed: _____
Kathryn Wiseman, County Judge

301523

Sheriff Report

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.
- **AUSTIN MICHAEL HENSON**, 21, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750).
- **MARIO ILDEFONSO SALAZAR**, 30, was arrested by BSPD on charges of bail jumping and failure to appear, theft property (\$100 to \$750), fail to identify giving false/fictitious information, and criminal trespass.
- **HARLEE DARLENE SANDRIDGE**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of failure to appear/attempt to commit burglary of a dwelling.
- **JOSHUA NATHANAEL SPIVEY**, 23, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of fail to identify fugitive intent give false information.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Settles. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of S Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of S Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Lloyd Avenue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of Galveston and S 3rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of W FM 700. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Peterson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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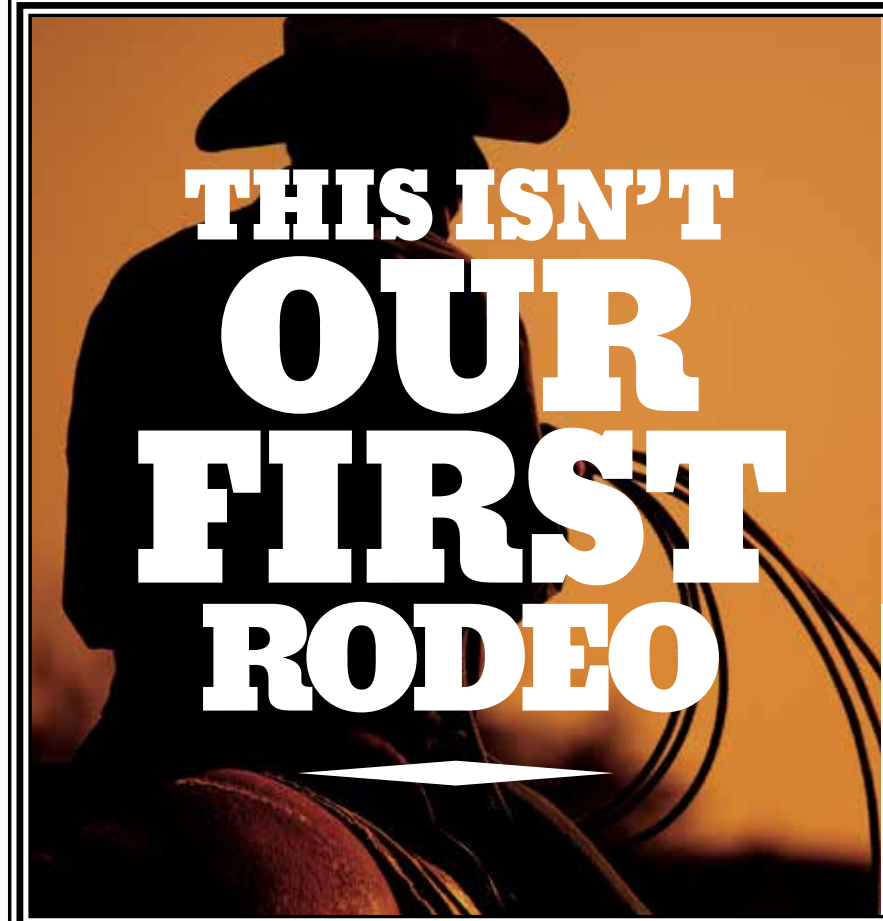
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MEMBER 2020

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OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

MEALS

Continued from Page 1

able at different times to help accommodate schedules of families. According to Young, there were 29 staff members who helped out and made these meal deliveries possible.

"The overwhelming gratitude from the families and compassion from the community that reached out to offer their help or support in any way they could, just shows what an amazing community Big Spring is," Young said.

While the food program may have been an extension from the normal program offered in the summer, it was a community effort that made it possible to extend. As the community and the school district - along with the nation - learned how to navigate through a pandemic, Big Spring's heart showed through once again.

"The rally by the community to support our program was heartfelt. From people who offered to bring us bags for family to carry meals home, to the local grocery stores who gave us cases of bags. The amazing women who made us all homemade masks; bus drivers who went above and beyond to make sure families got the meals."

She continued, "The most selfless act I can recall was Mr. (George) Bancroft was out checking on a bus route and there was a child who rode their bike to pick up meals for the family and the child had a flat tire. Mr. Bancroft loaded the bike in his truck and gave the child a ride home. These are the things that make Big Spring a community that is Steer Strong."

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

The fees go to operations and maintenance of the landfill. According to the Big Spring City website, the sanitary landfill disposes of an average 120 tons of waste per day and is required to comply with all reporting requirements of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. In addition to the landfill usage, the community has access to wood chips - for mulching around trees, flowerbeds or play areas - free of charge and can be obtained at the landfill during normal business hours.

In addition to the City Landfill being open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., the City has re-launched the Large/Bulk Item Pickup Program. Last month, the first round of pickup concluded with this month being the second pick up for District 1. Next month, on the third Wednesday of the month, will be the second large item pick up for District 2.

"This (Large Item/Bulk Item pick up) is an opportunity for a resident to put items on the curb to be picked up for no charge. Each district will have items picked up twice a year," he said.

For those with questions regarding the landfill hours, pricing or requesting further information, call 432-264-2383.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

The Big Spring Herald will be starting a special section featuring local youth art-work, writings, and other creative outlets. Share your child's masterpieces with us - drawings, sketches, paintings, stories, poems and more. Let's highlight and promote the talent we have growing right here in Howard County. E-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or submit on our Facebook Page.

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Mary McClendon, 82, died Sunday. Graveside service will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Funeral Home.

Gerald Verba, 68, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Robert Sanchez, 56, died Saturday. Visitation will be 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM Thursday with a Prayer Service at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Wanda Tubbs, 66, died Thursday. A memorial service will be at 11:00 AM Friday at the Salvation Army Chapel.

Jay "Noppie" Briscoe, 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Friday August 14, 2020 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Pastor Eddie Prince officiating.

Rebecca Arriola, 71, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dick Nichols, 82, died Tuesday. Visitation will be 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2:30 PM Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jimmy Storey, 76, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Howard County to hold public hearing on proposed budget

Commissioners decided on No New Revenue Tax Rate moving into proposed fiscal budget

Special to the Herald

A tax rate of \$.299562 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Howard County.

Proposed tax rate: \$0.299562 per \$100; No New Revenue Tax Rate: \$0.299562 per \$100; Voter Approval tax rate: \$0.304628 per \$100; De Minimis Rate: \$0.303595 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Howard County from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Howard County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Howard County exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for Howard County.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Howard County, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Howard County.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Howard County is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate will be held on August 24, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. at 300 Main Street, Big Spring TX 79720.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Howard County is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Howard County at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

Your taxes owed under any of the above rates can be calculated as follows: Property tax amount = (tax rate) X (taxable value of your property)/100

See **TAX**, Page 4

Public Notice

Pursuant to Local Government Code, Section 152.013, the Commissioners Court must publish the salary, expenses, and other allowances of elected positions proposed to be increased & the amount of the increases as provided in the proposed 2020-21 budget.

Elected Official	Fiscal 2021	Proposed Annual Increase
Longevity*		
County Judge	\$ 4,800	\$ 240
Commissioner Pct 2	\$ 1,440	\$ 240
Commissioner Pct 3	\$ 2,880	\$ 240
Commissioner Pct 4	\$ 2,400	\$ 240
JP 1-1	\$ 2,880	\$ 240
JP 1-2	\$ 1,440	\$ 240
District Clerk	\$ 1,680	\$ 240
County Attorney	\$ 2,880	\$ 240
County Clerk	\$ 5,280	\$ 240
Treasurer	\$ 4,560	\$ 240
Tax Assessor	\$ 1,200	\$ 240
Sheriff	\$ 2,880	\$ 240
*plus associated benefits		
Other increases:		
Treasurer:		
Office Supplies	\$ 3,680	\$ 105
Travel	\$ 4,120	\$ 120
Printing	\$ 720	\$ 20
Machine Maintenance	\$ 309	\$ 9
Telecommunications	\$ 7,214	\$ 21
Bonds	\$ 250	\$ 15
Tax Assessor:		
Telecommunications	\$ 1,200	\$ 200
Bonds	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Sheriff:		
Investigative Websites	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000
Telecommunications	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000

A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at the Office of County Judge, Courthouse 2nd Floor, Big Spring, TX or at www.co.howard.tx.us

Signed _____
Kathryn Wiseman County Judge

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Tuesday Rotary presents Paul Harris awards



Courtesy photos/Bruce Schooler

Pictured above: Tommy Churchwell and Tumbleweed Smith receive their Paul Harris Award x6. Pictured right: Fr. Christian Rabone presents District 5730 Governor Bonnie B. Pendleton, Ph.D. with an appreciation gift from the Tuesday Rotary Club, during her visit at the weekly meeting at Hotel Settles.



Stocks rebound on Wall Street as S&P 500 nears record

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are rebounding on Wall Street Wednesday, carrying the S&P 500 back toward the edge of its record high.

The benchmark index was up 1.3% in midday trading and on pace for its eighth gain in nine days. It pulled within 0.3% of its record, which was set in February when the coronavirus seemed like only a far-away worry for Wall Street.

The lift followed up on gains for stocks across Europe and much of Asia, while Treasury yields continued their sharp rally after a report on inflation came in higher than expected for the second straight day.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 235 points, or 0.8%, at 27,922 as of 11:45 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was up 2%.

The U.S. stock market is on the edge of erasing the last of the losses taken after the coronavirus pandemic crushed the economy into recession, even though the economy is still hobbling despite some recent improvements. In March, the S&P 500 had been down nearly 34% from its record.

Much of the rebound has been due to massive amounts of support from the Federal Reserve, which has slashed interest rates to nearly zero and propped up far-ranging corners of the bond market to keep the economy's head above water. The ultra-low interest rates mean investors are getting paid very little to own bonds, which pushes some into stocks, boosting their prices.

Congress has also offered unprecedented amounts of aid, though it's hit a seeming impasse in negotiations to re-up its assistance.

All that support has investors willing to look a few months or a year into the future, when a vaccine for the new coronavirus will hopefully be available and helping the economy get back to normal. More importantly for stock prices, the expectation is that corporate profits will also rebound from their current coronavirus-caused hole.

Wall Street's gains on Wednesday were widespread, with two-thirds of the stocks in the S&P 500 higher.

Technology stocks were among the biggest forces prodding the market higher. It's a return to form for them, following a mini-stumble in recent days.

Big tech-oriented giants like Apple, Microsoft and Amazon have been the year's biggest winners, carrying the stock market through the pandemic despite the worries about the economy, on expectations they'll continue to deliver strong growth regardless of wheth-

er people are quarantined.

Tesla jumped another 9.3% Wednesday after announcing a 5-for-1 split of its stock, in hopes of making the price of each share more affordable to investors. The stock has surged past \$1,400 after starting the year a little below \$420.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 0.68% from 0.66% late Tuesday. It's jumped sharply since sitting at 0.57% late Monday.

A report on Wednesday showed that inflation remains very low, but it ticked up more last month than economists expected. Economists debated how much value the report has, given that inflation is likely to remain weak with the pandemic flattening the economy.

If inflation were to reappear, it could weaken the Federal Reserve's commitment to keeping interest rates low and could ultimately draw some investors away from stocks.

Other risks also continue to loom over the market, including worsening tensions between the United States and China, which are the world's largest economies. Technology companies have been in focus in particular, and worries about potential retaliation by China were a big reason for U.S. tech stocks' struggles earlier in the week.

Partisan rancor in Washington is also threatening the possibility of more assistance for the economy. A \$600 weekly unemployment benefit from the U.S. government expired with July's end, and investors say the economy needs another big lifeline from Washington. President Donald Trump signed several executive orders this past weekend to offer some assistance, but critics say they fall well short of what's needed.

The recent rise in yields has also slowed the super-sonic ascent for gold recently. The metal's price has shot to record highs this year, benefiting from increased demand by investors looking for safety amid the pandemic but not interested in the low yields offered by bonds.

Gold for delivery in December dropped by more than \$90 per ounce on Tuesday. It clawed back a bit of that Wednesday, adding \$5.20 to \$1,951.50 per ounce.

In Europe, France's CAC 40 rose 0.9%, and Germany's DAX returned 0.9%. The FTSE 100 in London jumped 2.2%.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.4%, South Korea's Kospi added 0.6% and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.4%. Stocks in Shanghai slipped 0.6%.

News Briefs

Convicted killer pleads guilty to Minnesota husband murder

KASSON, Minn. — A Minnesota woman who earlier pleaded guilty to killing a woman in Florida was sentenced to life in prison without parole after pleading guilty Tuesday to killing her husband before going on the run.

Lois Riess, 58, of Blooming Prairie, was sentenced after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in the March 2018 fatal shooting of her husband, David Riess, at their southern Minnesota home, KAAL-TV reported.

Lois Riess was returned to Minnesota last month after pleading guilty to killing Pamela Hutchinson in Florida. Authorities alleged Riess targeted Hutchinson because they looked alike and Riess intended to steal her identity.

She received a life sentence in December after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in Hutchinson's death.

In court Tuesday, Riess apologized to her husband's friends and family, saying life without her husband is her true sentence and that she should not have killed him.

After her husband's death, Riess drove to Florida, befriended Hutchinson and fatally shot her at a Fort Myers Beach condo the following month, according to prosecutors.

With her head of white hair, Riess garnered national attention as the "fugitive grandma" before she was captured in April 2018 in Texas.

Prosecutors charge 3 with threatening women in R. Kelly case

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors announced charges Wednesday against three men accused of threatening and intimidating women who have accused R&B singer R. Kelly of abuse, including one man suspected of setting fire to a vehicle in Florida.

A longtime friend of the indicted singer offered to pay a victim \$500,000 to keep her from cooperating in Kelly's prosecution.

TAX

Continued from Page 3

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax rate as follows: FOR: Judge Kathryn Wiseman, Commissioner Jimmie Long, Commissioner John Cline; AGAINST: PRESENT and not voting: Commissioner Craig Bailey; ABSENT:

Commissioner Oscar M. Garcia

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state. The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Howard County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Howard County this year:

• Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value): 2019 - \$0.303165; 2020 - \$0.299562;

Change - increase of \$0.024474 or 8>90%

• Average homestead taxable value: 2019 - \$81, 260; 2020 - \$90, 227; Change - increase of 11.03%

• Tax on average homestead: 2019 - \$246; 2020 - \$270; Change - increase of \$24 or 9.71%

• Total tax levy on all properties: 2019 - \$17, 126.658; 2020 - \$17, 162.687; Change - increase of \$36,030 or 10.41%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Howard County at (432) 264-2232 or tiffany.sayles@howardcountytexas.com, or visit www.co.howard.tx.us for more information.

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Coahoma turns to powerful pass rushing duo for leadership in 2020

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

Colin Daniels and Patrick Gutierrez are heading into their second season as full-time starters on the Coahoma defense. The pair of pass rushers combined for 12.0 sacks in 2019 and are planning to spend even more time in the opponent's backfield this fall.

"I expect them to pick up right where they left off," Coahoma Head Football Coach Chris Joslin said.

The Daniels and Gutierrez duo lines up at the outside linebacker position on opposite ends of the defensive line and also splits snaps on offense at tight end. Joslin is looking for these two players to step up as leaders on the field for their senior seasons and both are up to the task.

While watching any given drill at a Coahoma practice, it does not take long to spot the two edge rushers flying around the backfield attempting to make a tackle. During end-of-practice conditioning, both of them are always near the front of the line showing off their speed and stamina.

"They have to be our leaders," Joslin said. "Last year, they got to go out and play and let the other guys do the talking but now it's their time to be the leaders. They're always going to go out and play hard but now they need to step into their roles as leaders of not just the defense, but the whole team."

Gutierrez had a breakout season during his first year on Varsity and finished second in total tackles (99) for the Bulldogs in 2019. Six of those tackles came behind the line of scrimmage and six more



HERALD File Photo

The Coahoma Bulldogs run onto the field before their game against Iraan in the 2018 season.

came courtesy of sacking the opposing quarterback.

The senior was happy with his performance last season but is looking to spend more time residing in the opposing backfield and to at least double his sack total from 2019.

"I want to set a high mark for myself and I'd say I want to get around 16 or 17 (sacks), maybe 20," Gutierrez said.

Daniels finished right behind Gutierrez on the tackle leaderboard last season (91) but was able to finish with one more tackle for loss (7). Daniels described his junior season as a "learning experience" and is looking forward to taking another step

forward this fall.

Even though he plays outside, Daniels likes to model his style of play after NFL players such as the recently retired Luke Kuechly and All-Pro Bobby Wagner. The Coahoma standout is a student of the game and would like to spend more time studying film.

While they are undersized for edge rushers by definition, these two pass rushing prowlers have been hitting the weight room hard and are noticeably stronger on the field.

"We play fast and we play strong," Daniels said. "We're just great competitors and constantly trying to fire up our defense. We compete with each other over tackles and we know stats don't really matter but I think that just helps us play to the best of our ability."

During a disappointing 42-0 loss to Abernathy in 2019, Gutierrez was able to pick up one sack in the game. That loss has left a bad taste in his mouth and has made him look forward to getting after the Antelopes' quarterback more than any other this season.

On the other hand, who is Daniels looking forward to chasing around the backfield?

"Any quarterback on the other side of the ball."

Just like that, football fans could already hear the crunching of pads on the gridiron later this month.

Shawn Moran is the sports writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Big Spring 2020 Team Tennis schedule updated

By SHAWN MORAN

Herald Sports Writer

Big Spring has recently sent out their updated version of the 2020 Team Tennis schedule. While the Steers were supposed to be pushed on the courts earlier this month, the UIL's decision earlier this summer pushed their first meet of the season back until Aug. 18 against Monahans.

- Aug. 18: vs. Monahans (10:00 a.m.)
- Aug. 22: vs. Fort Stockton/Snyder (TBD)
- Aug. 29: vs. Canyon (3:00 p.m.)
- Sep. 5: @ Levelland (V/JV) (9:00 a.m.)
- Sep. 5: vs. Borger @ Levelland (V/JV) (2:00 p.m.)
- Sep. 12: vs. Andrews/Wall (10:00 a.m.)
- Sep. 12: @ Brownfield (10:00 a.m.)
- Sep. 15: @ Greenwood (TBD)
- Sep. 17: @ Lake View (TBD) (JV)
- Sep. 22: @ Sweetwater (TBD)
- Sep. 24: vs. Sweetwater (TBD) (JV)
- Sep. 29: vs. Lake View (TBD)
- Oct. 1: vs. Greenwood (TBD) (JV)

Oct. 13: @ Abilene Cooper (TBD) (V/JV)

Head Coach Dana Jones has been preparing his team for the season and the Steers should have a very productive year on the tennis courts. After a summer waiting to see if they would be able to compete this fall, all of the Steer tennis players should be locked-in and ready to chase a district title.

Shawn Moran is the sports writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Vo, Vivier and Guan Win George Hannon Junior Invitational

Special to the Herald

Briefly: Keaton Vo of Austin wins the Boys 15-18 Division at the George Hannon Junior Invitational presented by Texas Mutual following a final round 6-under-par 65 at The University of Texas Golf Club. Nicole Vivier of Austin cards a final round 2-under-par 69 and wins the Girls 12-18 Division, while Irving's Henry Guan captures the Boys 14 & Under title.

Leaderboard:

Boys 15-18		
1) Keaton Vo	Austin	68-65 133
2) Trevor Algya	Highland Village	72-67 139
3) Andrew Tan	Austin	71-69 140

Girls 12-18		
1) Nicole Vivier	Austin	70-69 139
2) Darrelyn Webster	Austin	73-68 141
3) Alexa Saldana	Naucalpan	69-73 142

Boys 14 & Under		
1) Henry Guan	Irving	73-68 141
2) Trenton Mierl	Austin	73-69 142
3) Rhett O'Rear	Plano	72-72 144

Golf Course: The University of Texas Golf Club was built in 2003 and designed by Bechtol Russell Golf Course Design. The par-71 championship golf course stretches across the Texas Hill Country and overlooks Lake Austin. The 7,412-yard layout offers challenging shots and some of the best views in Austin. It is the home of the University of Texas Men's and Women's Golf Teams and has played host to the George Hannon Junior Invitational presented by Texas Mutual four times. The final round was contested at 6,900 yards in the Boys 15-18 Division; 5,842 yards in the Girls 12-18 Division and 6,301 yards in the Boys 14 & Under Division.

Weather: The temperature reached 102 degrees with winds reaching 10 mph out of the southwest.

Winner's Info: Keaton Vo of Austin began the final round one stroke ahead of the field. The 2022 University of Texas commit never lost the lead and in fact, lengthened that lead on Tuesday. His 6-under 65 in the final round was the lowest score of the tournament and he won his division by six strokes.

MLB Schedule

Wednesday Results

Away Team	Home Team	Final Score
Chicago White Sox	@ Detroit Tigers	
Arizona D'Backs	@ Colorado Rockies	
Oakland Athletics	@ Los Angeles Angels	
Chicago Cubs	@ Cleveland Indians	
Miami Marlins	@ Toronto Blue Jays	
Kansas City Royals	@ Cincinnati Reds	
Atlanta Braves	@ New York Yankees	
Baltimore Orioles	@ Philadelphia Phillies	
San Francisco Giants	@ Houston Astros	
Minnesota Twins	@ Milwaukee Brewers	
Washington Nationals	@ New York Mets	
Tampa Bay Rays	@ Boston Red Sox	
Seattle Mariners	@ Texas Rangers	
San Diego Padres	@ Los Angeles Dodgers	

Thursday Games

Away Team	Home Team	Time of Game
Washington Nationals	@ New York Mets	12:10 p.m.
Baltimore Orioles	@ Philadelphia Phillies	3:00 p.m. (ESPN)
Tampa Bay Rays	@ Boston Red Sox	3:30 p.m. (ESPN+)
Pittsburgh Pirates	@ Cincinnati Reds	4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee Brewers	@ Chicago Cubs	6:15 p.m. (FOX)
San Diego Padres	@ Los Angeles Dodgers	8:40 p.m.

NBA Schedule

*All Games played in Orlando, FL

Wednesday Results

Away Team	Home Team	Final Score
Indiana Pacers	@ Houston Rockets	
Toronto Raptors	@ Philadelphia 76ers	
Miami Heat	@ Oklahoma City Thunder	
Los Angeles Clippers	@ Denver Nuggets	

Thursday Games

Away Team	Home Team	Time of Game
Washington Wizards	@ Boston Celtics	11:00 a.m.
Sacramento Kings	@ Los Angeles Lakers	12:30 p.m.
Milwaukee Bucks	@ Memphis Grizzlies	3:00 p.m.
Dallas Mavericks	@ Phoenix Suns	3:00 p.m. (TNT)
San Antonio Spurs	@ Utah Jazz	5:30 p.m. (TNT)
Portland Trail Blazers	@ Brooklyn Nets	8:00 p.m. (TNT)

NHL Playoff Schedule

Stanley Cup Playoffs First Round

Wednesday Results

Away Team	Home Team	Final Score
New York Islanders	@ Washington Capitals	
Arizona Coyotes	@ Colorado Avalanche	
Montreal Canadiens	@ Philadelphia Flyers	
Vancouver Canucks	@ St. Louis Blues	

Thursday Games

Away Team	Home Team	Time of Game
Columbus Blue Jackets	@ Tampa Bay Lightning	2:00 p.m. (NBCSN)
Chicago Blackhawks	@ Vegas Golden Knights	4:30 p.m. (NBCSN)
Carolina Hurricanes	@ Boston Bruins	7:00 p.m. (NBCSN)
Calgary Flames	@ Dallas Stars	9:30 p.m. (NBCSN)

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Indesign and Photoshop are a plus, but will train the right person. We are looking for a creative, outgoing individual familiar with social media. Must be a self-starter, and be able to meet deadlines.

Individual will be responsible for several areas of coverage, from feature stories to hard news. Must have a flexible schedule.

Contact Amanda Duforat 432-263-7331 Ext. 230 for questions or to submit your resume at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

The Howard County Auditor will receive two sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 21, 2020 for prescription medicine and services. These will be two separate bids.

- 1) Howard County Indigent Health and Welfare Programs, and the Howard County Juvenile Probation Program
- 2) Howard County Detention Center

Specifications may be obtained at the County Indigent Health Care Office, located at the Howard County Courthouse, 300 Main Street, Room 310, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court for their consideration on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jackie Olson, County Auditor

#10600

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Annie's Mailbox

Say It; Don't Spray It

Dear Annie: I realize that this is a difficult issue on which to offer advice, but I suspect it might have widespread interest.

I have found that many friends with whom I have coffee in the morning talk in an exuberant way, and in the process, spew pieces of bagels, croissants and more across the table, often into my face or food. This is also a frequent, if not inevitable, occurrence at cocktail parties, in which hors d'oeuvres are passed around to people who may not have the clearest awareness of what is

going on.

I have resolved not to be a participant in this "wood chipper" game by chewing slowly and carefully and not speaking while I'm chewing. But I wonder how you would advise staying out of the fray of unwelcome food particles while not insulting well-meaning people. -- No Wood Chipper

Dear NWC: Nobody likes a salivary shower, but if you find yourself irritated with most of your friends over this, the problem might be on your side of the table. I suggest you plan your socializing around activities that don't involve eating

-- going for a walk, taking a hike, volunteering together -- as much as possible, and keep a wide berth the rest of the time.

Dear Annie: I am 77 years old and have known for most of my life that I'm not beautiful. I have a sharp chin and nose and have actually had a few warts removed. I realized when I was a child that I was not cute -- a fact that was reinforced through my teen and young adult years. In my late teens, I was thrilled to marry a handsome "bad boy" type. You can imagine how that turned out!

I persevered and

developed a successful career, plenty of friends and a church family. I gained a level of self-confidence. Then I married the most kind, gentle, caring man. We raised a family, and I felt we had a very successful marriage. He encouraged me in many endeavors such as returning to school and finding a more suitable career.

One problem is that my husband is so kind that he would never criticize anything about me, especially my appearance.

And now, since the pandemic, I've been stuck at home, with no weekly visit to the

beauty salon and no makeup or fashionable clothes. These past few months have made me painfully aware that I'm "ugly"!

Recently, a neighbor came to call (admittedly, not a very smart person) and related how when she first met me, I looked just like a friend of hers who she said looked "just like a witch" as she got older.

That was all it took! I now doubt why my husband married someone who looks like me. Does everyone I meet immediately also think I resemble a witch? I feel all of my qualities as an empathetic, successful person are of no avail.

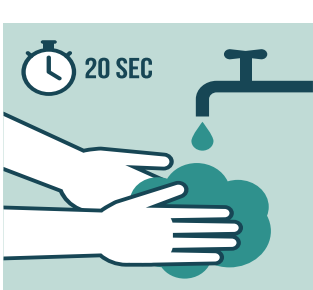
-- Witchy Woman

Dear WW: I know it's been said so many times that the words practically have no meaning, but it still bears repeating: Real beauty is on the inside. A loving heart means infinitely more than a pretty face. And when you exude warmth and empathy, there's no way anyone would mistake you for a witch. Be as kind to yourself as you are to others: Start each morning and end each night by looking in the mirror and saying, "I love you."

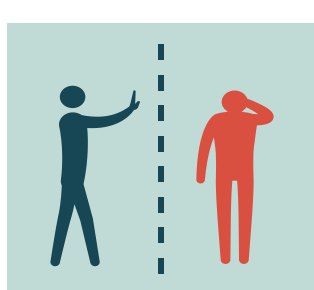
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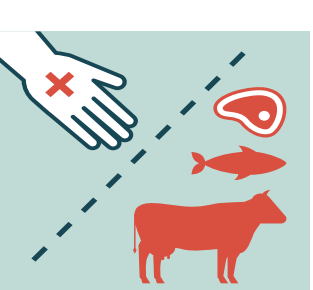
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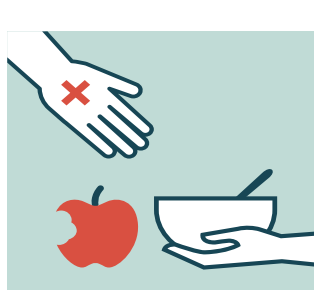
WEAR A MASK



AVOID CROWDED PLACES



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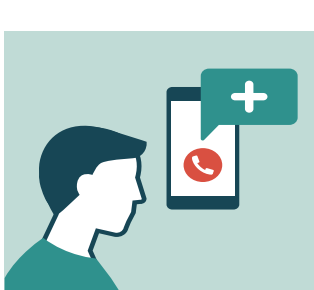
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By Steve Becker
Once in a lifetime

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North-South vulnerable.

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♠ Q 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 6 5 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ Q 10 3
♦ J 9 7
♣ J 10 8

EAST
♠ 7 5 4
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ Q 9 7

SOUTH
♠ A K J
♥ A K J
♦ A K Q 10
♣ A K 4

divided 3-3, and the safest way of exploring this possibility is by leading low initially. If you started out by playing the A-K-4 of clubs and the suit broke 4-2, you'd be down before you could test any other possibilities.

Let's say West wins the club and returns the nine of spades. You win with the ace and cash the A-K of clubs. If both defenders follow suit, dummy's six of clubs becomes good, and you're within a trick of making the contract. Next, you cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, and, if the jack falls, you have your 12th trick, eventually discarding your jack of hearts on dummy's six of clubs.

The bidding:
South West North East
6 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — ten of spades.

There's no harm in indulging in fantasy, so let's imagine you get dealt the South hand and open the bidding with six notrump. West leads a spade, and the question is how to give yourself the best chance to make the slam. Remember, you don't see the East-West cards, which could be divided in millions of different ways.

The best method of play is to win the spade lead with the king and return the four of clubs! One of your main hopes is that the clubs are

If the jack of diamonds does not fall when you play the A-K-Q, you plan to rely on a heart finesse after discarding the diamond ten on dummy's club winner.

If the clubs are not divided 3-3, you still have a chance, though not a very good one. Cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, and, if the jack drops, pray that the heart finesse will succeed.

That's really all there is to the play. The idea is to give yourself three different chances to make the slam rather than just one or two. By testing the clubs as described, you cannot be defeated until all three possibilities have been explored.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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HAPPY HUNTING

Find the 16 Native American tribe names.
The names go across, down, and diagonally:



- Abenaki
- Mohawk
- Mohican
- Seneca
- Cherokee
- Choctaw
- Arapaho
- Cheyenne
- Comanche
- Sioux
- Tlingit
- Apache
- Hopi
- Navajo
- Pueblo
- Zuni

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Mars and Pluto Mad-Dogging

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're being asked for your input because what you say has been known to change how people look at things, or because you've been right and/or helpful in the past. Share freely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're comfortable with being different from the others, and you absolutely should be. These differences will be a gift that makes the group stronger.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are many levels to getting to know a subject. It can be argued that one doesn't come to a full understanding until having taught the thing a few times. You'll go deep today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though most of you was formed through means beyond your control, you are still, at least partially, your own creator. Feel free to take artistic license with your own persona.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The time limitations you face are the best thing that could happen to your project. You'll get things done quickly and efficiently and produce twice as much as you would have if given double the time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have a choice between expensive leisure and invest-

ing in something that doesn't seem nearly as fun but will likely last for years to come, perhaps even become your legacy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Congratulations are in order, and you will hear them so often that the biggest challenge will be not letting that go to your head. Whether or not you are successful in that, enjoy your moment to the fullest!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Each relationship is its own continent in which the tectonic plates merge and part. Earthquakes are an inevitability. Don't be alarmed. Think of them as a shift in boundaries.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Indifference is boring. Indifference is not invested in what happens. You don't care what people think about you, but you very much care what happens next and are deeply invested in getting to a certain outcome.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you do will end up being much more interesting than the reason that

brought you there in the first place. This is why this is a good day to accept invitations, regardless of the particulars.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION REVERSAL: Yesterday, we heard from an Aquarius asking as to the intuition of numbers. She sparked my curiosity so much that I turned the question back on her, asking: "What is your favorite number? Would you intuit a series of numbers for me? When did this fascination start and can you express some of its nuances?"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Doing a really good job is the best decision you can make for any endeavor. Do whatever it takes to make your work stellar and to give people something to talk about and recommend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The fun you face with another person will teach you something, but shared challenges teach you more. Until a relationship has weathered a storm, how do you know it's true nature?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 13). Your head and heart wrap around unchanging truths. Certain events seem to occur out of time, indeed their timelessness is exactly why they matter. It will often play out practically by flowing great love to simple actions, dedicating yourself to the needs of others, and acting regardless of reward. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 49, 2, 5 and 16.

Numbers have been a part of my conscious experience since I was in my teens. I always had a set of favorite numbers. Through my relationships, that group of numbers grew bigger. Some of the numbers associate with people that I feel play a huge role in my life. After I got divorced, I spent a lot of time alone. I had an evening when I sat down and wrote out all these numbers that resonated with me during that time period. Now, numbers flood in and correlate with each other. One example: My ex-husband's birthday is April 4. My current sweetheart told me his favorite number was 44. Once when we were in a separation point, he had put a sticker on his car with the number 44, and I saw him do it in my dream! (More on this in Saturday's column.)

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SUDOKU

	2	1						6
		3	6		2	8		
	9							5
		5		1				
1		7			8			3
	6		5	4				
		2			7	1		
			4	3				
9							4	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	3	8	1	2	6	4	7	5
7	1	6	4	3	5	2	8	9
4	5	2	9	8	7	1	3	6
2	6	9	5	4	3	8	7	1
1	4	7	2	6	8	5	9	3
3	8	5	7	1	9	6	2	4
6	9	4	8	7	1	3	5	2
5	7	3	6	9	2	8	4	1
8	2	1	3	5	4	9	6	7

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Virus-proofing NFL facilities is a tall, masked task

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**

AP Pro Football Writer

The captivation and celebration of the NFL have long stemmed from the speed, strategy, strength and teamwork that make the game go.

Football is just as much a sport of pattern and detail, too, never more than at training camps around the league in the time of COVID-19.

Like the defense stiffening at the goal line late in the fourth quarter, the NFL has implemented a wide array of health protocols designed to keep the virus from wrecking the 2020 season for this cultural institution that was a \$16 billion business before the pandemic.

"There are so many steps along the way. You've got to fill out your questionnaire on our app when you wake up in the morning," Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph said. "Then when you come in, you sanitize your hands, do your temperature check, get your COVID tests, put on your lanyard, grab your tracker. So there's just a lot of things that have now been added to your routine."

Daily testing, naturally, is the fulcrum of this aggressive virus-proofing around team facilities. NFL Network reported that, of 109,075 coronavirus tests conducted on players, coaches and team employees through Tuesday, the rate of positive tests has been 0.46% overall and 0.81% for players.

Since training camps began three weeks ago, 108 players have been placed on COVID-19 reserve lists by their respective teams — according to an Associated Press review of the league's daily transaction logs — and 81 of those players were subsequently returned to active status on the roster. There are more than 2,600 players currently employed across the 32 clubs.

Landing on the COVID-19 reserve list does not mean a player has the virus. The category was created for a player who either tests positive for COVID-19 or who has been quarantined after having been in close contact with an infected person or persons. By agreement between the NFL and the NFL Players Association, clubs are not permitted to disclose whether a player is positive for COVID-19 or simply in preventative quarantine.

Wearing masks, of course, is a vital part of the equation.

After leaving the testing trailer and entering the building, players and staff must pass the temperature check. The tablet-like device won't even perform the thermal scan if the person is not wearing a face covering.

"It's an adjustment. You used to check phone, key, wallet. Now it's phone, key, wallet, mask, proximity locator," Vikings linebacker Eric Kendricks said. "But they explained to us the reason behind it. If someone is to get infected, heaven forbid, if we're close to those people for a certain amount of time, those devices will allow us to quarantine effectively if that's the case. So there's a reason behind the madness."

Passing the symptom questionnaire and the temperature check, with the nasal swab performed in between, then takes the employee to another level of high-tech: the proximity tracker.

The device, which resembles a smart watch, produces audible and visual warnings to help maximize social distancing and keep employees not required to interact with players apart from those who must. The tracker can also provide instant reports for contact tracing in case of a positive test. The devices are worn during practice but turned in at the end of the work day before employees depart the building.

"It's weird when someone tells you you've been too close for too long," Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said, "but it's necessary. We're going to try to do our part for the community and make sure we can keep playing the game we love."

The bulk of the virus-proofing protocols are uniform across the league, with each team applying its own twists to fit the facility.

The Miami Dolphins installed new air purification devices throughout their facility. The Tennessee Titans had 4-foot-long dividers placed between each player's cubicle in the locker room, making the spaces look a little like voting booths. Vikings players can order meals via smart phone app to reduce time spent in the cafeteria.

The Carolina Panthers have made clever use of Bank of America Stadium to their virus-fighting advantage. All of the 80-plus players have their own temporary luxury suite at the 73,000-seat venue, expected to retreat there alone for lunch or during the down time between practices and meetings in the name of social distancing.

There's almost no end to the precautions that can be taken. Narrow hallways have become one-way paths. Couches have been removed. Even shower heads in the locker room have been taken out to increase spacing. Electric static sprayers are being used for surface disinfecting. Seating capacity in meeting rooms has been significantly reduced.

"We're so spaced out that it can feel like you're not all in the same room together, even more than a Zoom, even though you are sitting in the same room," Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill said.

In an intense contact sport in which participants are bound to breathe on each other often, the work has to be done in the building during the day and at home at night.

"Everyone is going to do the absolute best they can do, knowing that it's impossible to totally eliminate the risk," said Vikings head athletic trainer and vice president of sports medicine Eric Sugarman, who is the team's infection control officer. He tested positive for COVID-19 last month.

As far as the tall task of making it through a full season, well, the fiercely competitive nature of its participants ought to work in pro football's favor.

"It's going to come down to whoever handles the situation the best. That's who's going to be at the top at the end, and I feel like we're taking all the right steps," Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Kenny Clark said. "You walk in here, you get tested, there's sanitizers everywhere. You know, the masks, everything that we're doing, they're serious about getting us ready to be able to play and keeping us healthy."

Turner helps Indiana hold off Harden rally to beat Rockets

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Myles Turner had 18 points, reserve Edmond Sumner added a season-high 17 and Indiana held off a late rally by Houston and James Harden to break a five-game losing streak to the Rockets, 108-104 on Wednesday.

It looked as if the Pacers had locked up the win when they went up 104-90 with 5:05 remaining. That's when Harden got Houston going, cutting it to 106-104 on with a driving basket with 27 seconds to go.

Harden had 11 of Houston's 14 points during the surge.

But after Victor Oladipo missed a 3-pointer, Turner tipped out the rebound to Justin Holiday with six seconds left. Holiday hit two foul shots to finish off Indiana's first victory over Houston since February 2017.

Indiana coach Nate McMillan let starters like Malcolm Brogdon and T.J. Warren rest because of lingering injuries. The coach was glad to see the rest of the lineup step up in their absence of the pair, who've combined to average 36 points in a game this season.

"I think all of our guys, it seems like when they get an opportunity to play, they've done some good things. We had a number of guys out tonight. We wanted to give some guys opportunities and they played well," McMillan said.

Harden could not get off a final 3-pointer before

the buzzer sounded. The Rockets have lost two straight for the first time since the NBA restarted the season.

Harden had 45 points and tied his career high with 17 rebounds. He came an assist shy of his fifth triple-double this season. It was Harden's 21st game this season with 40 points or more.

Holiday also has 18 points for the Pacers. Oladipo and Doug McDermott had 16 points apiece. Turner led the Pacers with 12 rebounds.

Jeff Green had 14 points for Houston. The Rockets struggled from the outside, going just 16 of 57 on 3-pointers.

McMillan said they knew Houston liked to take a lot of threes and the plan was to control the rebounds and get back quickly the other way.

"They take a lot of threes, but they miss a lot of threes," he said. "What we wanted to do is make sure that we won those long rebounds. We wanted to turn those into transition points."

McMillan said T.J. Warren didn't play because of plantar faciitis, something that he's dealt with all season. McMillan wanted Warren to rest. The coach was unsure if Warren would play in the regular-season finale Friday.

Harden said it was important for the Rockets to have a healthy Russell Westbrook back for the playoffs. Westbrook sat out after he a MRI diagnosed a quad muscle injury in his right leg.

"We've just got to continue to get better," Harden said. "Guys that have an opportunity to step up have got to be ready to go out and take advantage of the minutes. We obviously know how important Russ is to everything we're trying to accomplish, so the faster he can get his body right and get back on the court, the better off we'll be."

TIP-INS

Pacers: McMillan was rewarded with a one-year extension to his contract that was set to expire after next season. ... Malcolm Brogdon, who had 12 points in Monday's loss to Miami, sat out against Houston with a sore neck.

Rockets: Westbrook won't play Friday and will be reevaluated before the playoffs. "He's definitely going to be out Friday," D'Antoni said. "Then we'll see." ... Houston had not lost consecutive games since dropping four straight in March before the pandemic shut down the NBA.

LOCKED IN: Indiana is locked into fifth place and a matchup with No. 4 seed Miami in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Heat have won all three games against Indiana this season, including on Monday.

UP NEXT

Pacers: Play Miami on Friday.

Rockets: Play Philadelphia on Friday.

Dietrich debuts as Rangers rally in 8th for 7-4 win over M's

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Baseball Writer

Derek Dietrich talked a few hours before his Texas Rangers debut about just wanting to make some kind of impact for his new team.

The veteran infielder certainly did in a big comeback against the Seattle Mariners.

Dietrich reached base all four times, had a big stolen base and scored twice for the Rangers, who overcame an early four-run deficit for a 7-4 win Wednesday night, wrapping up a homestand when they won five of six games.

"That eighth inning, that was fun. I was pumped up," Dietrich said. "It felt good to feel that again. It's been a little bit."

A one-out single by Dietrich off hard-throwing Erik Swanson (0-1) got Texas' five-run eighth going before Elvis Andrus, mired in a 2-for-23 slump, doubled into the left field corner and pinch-hitter Todd Frazier was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Dietrich scored when No. 9 batter Jeff Mathis had a bloop single before Shin-Soo Choo's game-tying sacrifice fly. Frazier scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch by Taylor Williams, who had just entered. Willie Calhoun, already with an RBI hit an inning earlier, added a two-run single.

Dietrich had three hits and was hit by a pitch, becoming the first player since rookie Joey Gallo in June 2015 to reach base safely four times in his Texas debut.

"You see the energy he brought," manager Chris Woodward said. "He's got a ton of energy. A great game for him to start off."

Jonathan Hernandez (3-0), the fourth Texas pitcher, pitched a scoreless eighth before Rafael Montero's perfect ninth for his fourth save in as many chances.

Seattle scored all of its runs in the second off Jordan Lyles. Austin Nola led off by lining a 424-foot homer into Seattle's bullpen in left-center before Shed Long Jr.

walked. Daniel Vogelbach then made it 3-0 when he pulled a 442-foot shot into the right field seats — well beyond the five rows of cardboard cutouts of fans. Kyle Lewis later added a sacrifice fly.

After getting his release from the Chicago Cubs last weekend, and 721 big league games the past seven seasons for Miami and Cincinnati, Dietrich joined the Rangers and initially signed a minor league deal so he could work out. He got added to the roster Tuesday, a day before starting in place of struggling second baseman Rougned Odor, hitting .116 this season with only two hits and 13 strikeouts his last 29 at-bats.



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